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PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

[ISSUED, JULY 14TH, 1866.]

SESSION 1865-6.

Ninth Meeting, March 26th, 1866.

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, BART., K.C.B., PRESIDENT, in
the Chair.

PRESENTATION.—*Rev. J. Hudson Taylor.*

ELECTIONS.—*Edmund Francis Davis, Esq. ; John Dunn Gardner, Esq. ;
Rear-Admiral C. Baillie Hamilton ; Charles Alston Messiter, Esq.*

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY SINCE THE LAST MEETING, 12TH MARCH, 1866.—‘*Voyages de Hiouen Tsang*,’ 2 vols., par M. Stanislaus Julien. Presented by Her Majesty’s Secretary of State for India. ‘*A Descriptive Treatise on Mathematical Drawing Instruments*,’ by W. F. Stanley, Esq. ‘*A Visit to the Suez Canal*,’ by T. K. Lynch, Esq. ‘*Madagascar and the Malagasy*,’ by Lieutenant S. P. Oliver, R.A. All presented by the authors. ‘*Note di un Viaggio in Persia*,’ vol. I., by F. de Filippe. Added to the Library by purchase. ‘*The Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales*,’ 2 vols., and Atlas. Presented by Messrs. Fullarton and Co. ‘*Observations on the Commerce of the American States*,’ by John Holroyd, Earl of Sheffield. ‘*Remarks on the Husbandry and Internal Commerce of Bengal*,’ by H. T. Colebrooke. ‘*Les Antiquités d’Arles*,’ par M. J. Sequin. All presented by S. M. Drach, Esq., F.R.G.S., &c. Continuations of ‘*Journals*,’ ‘*Transactions*,’ &c. &c.

ACCESSIONS TO THE MAP-ROOM SINCE THE LAST MEETING. — Map of England and Wales, by Fullarton, Part 2. 5 sheets of the Government Map of Sweden, scale, $\frac{1}{800000}$. Admiralty Charts and Ordnance Maps up to date.

The PRESIDENT, previous to the reading of the Paper, announced to the meeting that he had received very satisfactory letters from Dr. Livingstone,

who had arrived safely at Zanzibar, and was preparing to proceed to the interior of Africa. There had been only one drawback to the success of his expedition. Through the kindness of the Governor of Bombay and our countrymen there, Dr. Livingstone had provided himself with a number of buffaloes, thinking they would be particularly useful to him, from their being safe from the attacks of the *tsetse* fly, which destroys the native cattle; but unfortunately nine of those animals had died. Dr. Livingstone was, nevertheless, in high spirits when he wrote. He (the President) hoped that he would meet with the same success as on former occasions, when he had been without the services of buffaloes or other animals.

The Paper of the evening was as follows:—

1. *Observations on two Memoirs recently published by M. Veniukof on the Pamir Region and the Bolor Country in Central Asia.* By Major-Gen. SIR H. C. RAWLINSON, K.C.B., M.P., &c.

SIR HENRY RAWLINSON commenced by saying that the subject to be brought forward this evening was one which was curious, not only in a geographical, but in a literary, and to some extent, he might say, in a political point of view. The countries between the northern frontiers of our Indian possessions and the Russian empire have for many years past been regarded with very considerable interest, but no part of that intervening space had excited so much curiosity as the portion lying between the following boundaries:—Kashmir and Afghanistan on the south, the valley of the Jaxartes on the north, Turkestan on the east, and Bokhara on the west. This region of country is marked in many maps as a *terra incognita*. It was not, however, totally unknown, for a certain degree of information, as they would presently see, had been obtained from various sources regarding it. Geographical sportsmen had been merely accustomed to regard it as a manor which had been very little shot over,—one moreover abounding with game, and to the covers of which, accordingly, they were very desirous of obtaining access. Under these circumstances, English geographers had been recently much surprised to learn from Russian sources that a detailed description already existed of a great part of this region, and so authentic appeared the announcement that it became the duty of the Geographical Society to inquire into the nature of these new materials, with a view to placing the information which might be obtained from them at the disposal of the public. The result of our endeavours to obtain such information had led to the present communication.

It appeared that, some four or five years ago, notices had been published in the Russian papers, and in Russian periodicals, concerning some remarkable travels through these little-known countries. The first intimation he (Sir Henry) had of such notices